



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

11 AUGUST 2017

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Mountain View—Google's Android App Stores Flooded with Spyware Apps

(U) Hackers recently flooded Android app stores, including the Google Play store, with over 1,000 spyware apps, which have the capability to monitor actions on infected devices. Dubbed *SonicSpy*, the malware can silently collect information, hijack device functions, and monitor calls logs, contacts, and information about Wi-Fi access points, according to cybersecurity researchers. Google has removed the malicious apps from its store, but other versions may remain on third-party platforms.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [ZDNet](#)

#### (U) Santa Clara—Generator at Marijuana Farm Linked to Loma Fire

(U) One of three portable generators on a marijuana farm is to blame for the Loma fire last year that destroyed 12 homes south of San Francisco, according to investigators. Authorities announced yesterday they were investigating the legal status of the marijuana growing operation. The Loma fire was one of four fires linked to marijuana grows last year, according to an official.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) New Jersey—President Trump Declares National Emergency for US Opioid Crisis

(U) Colts Neck—The President declared yesterday that the crisis over the US addiction to opioid painkillers is a national emergency, potentially resulting in prioritized funding and resources from Washington, according to reporting. Opioids include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic medications such as fentanyl, or prescription pain relievers such as oxycodone, morphine, and many others, according to the US National Institute of Drug Abuse.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [BBC News](#)

#### (U) Pennsylvania—SWAT Officers Rushed to Hospital Following Fentanyl Exposure

(U) Pittsburgh—Eighteen SWAT officers were rushed to the hospital after being exposed to the highly toxic drug Fentanyl following a raid at a residence, according to reporting. A table where the suspected Fentanyl was being bagged was overturned, causing the toxic substance to become airborne. The officers reported feeling dizzy and numb, were immediately treated at the hospital, and later released. Because of safety concerns, the DEA has advised local police to avoid testing drugs at the scene of a raid.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [International Business Times](#)

#### (U) Pennsylvania—Man Found Guilty of Cartel-Connected Drug Trafficking Charges

(U) Norristown—A 45-year old man was convicted yesterday of 22 felony charges related to drug trafficking heroin—between Atlanta and New York—worth an estimated street value of about \$9 million dollars, according to reporting. The man had hidden the drugs inside an elaborate, working car battery. The convicted man's attorney did not dispute the charges, but argued his client's family was being threatened by a powerful drug cartel, coercing the suspect into engaging in the crime.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [Times Herald](#), [CBS News](#)

**(U) Tennessee—Major Law Enforcement Operation Results in Drug Seizures and Arrests**

(U) Memphis—Thirty-six people have been indicted and 26 arrested—including known gang members—as the result of a six-month long cocaine trafficking investigation—called “Operation Cocaine Cowboy”—in North Memphis, law enforcement officials announced yesterday. The operation yielded 9.8 pounds of powder cocaine, as well as marijuana, hydrocodone and other drugs, weapons, vehicles, and \$184,000 in cash, according to reporting.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [CBS News](#)

**(U) Texas—More than 11 Pounds of Meth Seized, 39 Arrested in Major Multi-Agency Operation**

(U) New Braunfels—A task force executed search warrants yesterday as a part of a five-month long investigation—named “Operation Crystal Lake”—targeting known methamphetamine traffickers, according to law enforcement. Officers seized methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, cash, eight firearms (including two reported stolen), and three vehicles (including one reported stolen). The 38 defendants face a total of 44 felony drug and weapons charges, according to the New Braunfels Police Department.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [CBS News](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Cuba—US Embassy Employees Possibly Subjected to 'Acoustic Attack'**

(U) Havana—The United States believes several State Department employees at the US embassy in Havana were subjected to an "acoustic attack" using sonic devices that left at least two with serious health problems requiring them to be brought back to the US for treatment, according to officials. It is not known to what degree the Cuban Government was involved in the attack, but FBI agents have been allowed into Cuba to investigate the incident.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [CNN](#)

**(U) Mexico—Authorities Capture Female Drug Gang Leader Responsible for Cancun Violence**

(U) Puebla—Mexican authorities announced yesterday that they have caught Leticia Rodriguez, a drug gang leader allegedly responsible for much of the violence in the resort city of Cancun. Cancun—Mexico's most popular beach destination—was hit by violence in January, where gunmen attacked the state prosecutors' office, killing four people. The Mexican federal police and marines caught Leticia Rodriguez in the central state of Puebla, according to a government statement.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Somalia—US Airstrikes Kill High-Level Al-Shabaab Leader**

(U) Banadiir—Two US-led airstrikes were carried out yesterday as part of a joint operation against al-Shabaab extremists in Somalia, resulting in the death of a high-level leader of the group, according to the US military and the Somali President. Earlier this month, the US confirmed another airstrike had killed al-Shabaab's shadow governor for Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab is considered the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa, according to reporting.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Turkey—Authorities Detain Suspected ISIS Militant for Planning Attack on US Warplane**

(U) Adana—A Russian man named Renat Bakiev—a suspected ISIS militant—was detained near Incirlik airbase yesterday for reportedly plotting to stage terrorist attacks against a US military plane, according to reporting. Bakiev was also suspected of carrying out preparations for a plot to attack a center of the Alevis religious minority—an offshoot of the Shia sect of Islam—in Adana city. The Russian Consulate in Turkey is addressing the situation, according to a Russian official.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [Telegraph](#)

**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**

**(U) Texas—Local Builder Used in Scheme to Conceal Drug Trafficking Operation**

(U) Laredo—A husband and wife allegedly operated a drug trafficking cell that used a home builder for a scheme to conceal drug proceeds, according to recently filed court documents. After a house was built and sold, revenues went to the couple's bank accounts to appear as profits from home-building as a cover for drug trafficking. The couple allegedly used US bank accounts to transfer drug proceeds to US cities along the Mexican border and to places outside the United States, according to authorities.

SOURCE: 10 August 2017, [Laredo Morning Times](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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